

**AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:**

In Figure 2, the numeral 55 has been moved to refer to the interface between the three sub-processes as described at page 5, lines 30-31 of the specification. The rules engine contained in design sub-process 1 has been relabeled as "R1-1" for consistency with the specification. Active variable 58 is now shown in Figure 2. The manufacturing site in the lower left corner of Figure 2 has been designated as manufacturing site 68 to avoid duplicate use of the reference numeral 58.

Attachments in Appendix:   Annotated Drawing Sheet Showing Changes  
                                      Replacement Drawing Sheet

**REMARKS**

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject patent application are respectfully requested.

Applicant's representative wishes to thank Examiner Jarrett for the courtesy extended during a telephone discussion on October 29, 2007. The substance of this discussion is reflected in the remarks below.

The drawings have been amended in consideration of the statements in the office action. In particular, in Figure 2, the numeral 55 has been moved to refer to the interface between the three sub-processes as described at page 5, lines 30-31 of the specification. The rules engine contained in design sub-process 1 has been relabeled as "R1-1" for consistency with the specification. Active variable 58 is now shown in Figure 2. The manufacturing site in the lower left corner of Figure 2 has been designated as manufacturing site 68 to avoid duplicate use of the reference numeral 58. (In this regard, a conforming amendment is made in the specification.)

With respect to "rules engine 1" mentioned on page 22 of the specification, this reference has been changed to "rules engine R1-1" for better consistency with Figure 2.

Based on these changes to the specification and drawings, withdrawal of the objection to the drawings is respectfully requested.

Claim 7 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 112, first paragraph. While not acquiescing in this rejection because, among other things, the original disclosure at, for example, page 22, line 36 to page 23, line 7 and page 25, lines 21-25 provides support for the claimed subject matter, Applicant has canceled claims 7 and 22 without prejudice or disclaimer in order to advance prosecution.

Claims 1-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 101 as allegedly being directed to non-statutory subject matter. As discussed during the above-mentioned interview, Applicant disagrees with this rejection. Specifically, claim 1 recites a "computerized" system and as such is believed to clearly describe statutory subject matter. Claim 16 recites a "storing" feature and thus provides a "tangible" result. Claim 27 recites a computer-readable medium on which computer-executable instructions for method for controlling a manufacturing design process are encoded and as such is believed to clearly describe statutory subject matter.

To advance prosecution, Applicant has amended the independent claims to refer to a "manufacturing" design process. In addition, Applicant has amended claim 1 to refer to "a processor" programmed to provide a configurable interface between said first and second design sub-processes. Consequently, withdrawal of the Section 101 rejection of claims 1-27 is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 102(e) as allegedly being "anticipated" by Farrah et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,882,892).

As discussed during the above-mentioned interview, claims 1, 16 and 27 have been amended so that the claimed passive variables are even more clearly distinguished from the dependent variables of Farrah et al. Specifically, each of these claims recites:

specifying which of the one or more variables (A,B) are active variables, each of which can have its domain modified by at least one process within the sub-process to which the each active variable belongs, and which of the one or more variables (A,B) are passive variables, each of which has its domain determined within allowable values by the domains of the other variable or variables in the relationship but not by any process within the sub-process to which the each passive variable belongs...

This amendment find support in the original disclosure at, for example, page 9, lines 19-31 and page 12, lines 26-28. The dependent variables of Farrah et al. are not described as having the features ascribed to the claimed passive variables, nor is there any suggestion in Farrah et al. to do so. For at least these reasons, claims 1, 16 and 27 (and the claims that depend therefrom) are believed to patentably distinguish over Farrah et al.

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Amendment Accompanying Request for Continued Examination

The pending claims are believed to be allowable and favorable office action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

**NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.**

By:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Michael J. Shea", written over a horizontal line.

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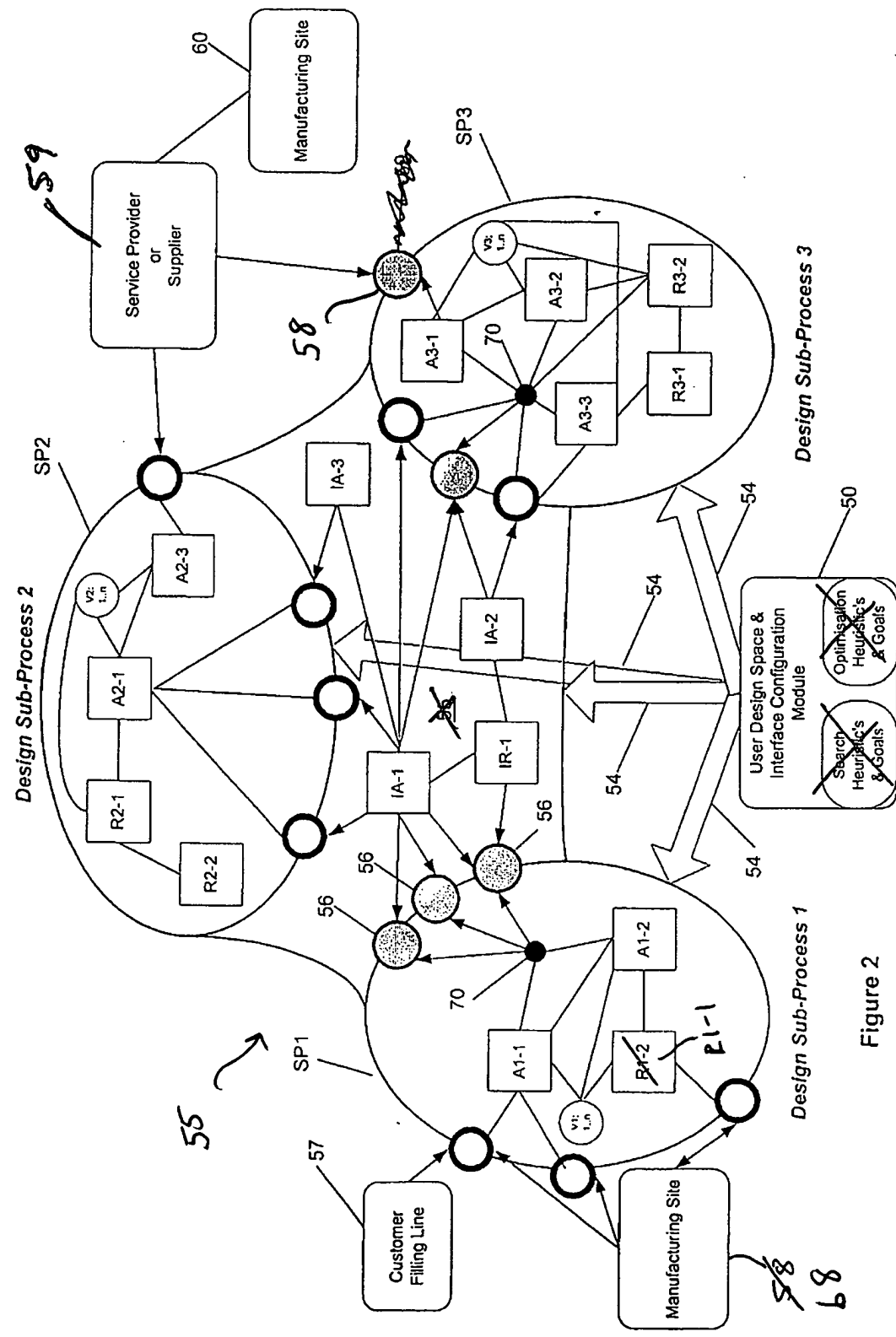


Figure 2